

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 291601Z JUL 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9807

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5717

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CSCE, GR, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON FOR CARAMANLIS

REF: SECTO 08042

1. I MET EARLY THIS AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
BITSIOS FOR A FINAL GET TOGETHER PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE LATER TODAY WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS
FOR HELSINKI. IN ACCORDANCE REFTTEL, I TOLD BITSIOS
THAT THE PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON WITH CARAMANLIS ON
WEDNESDAY WOULD BE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE
AND NOT REPEAT NOT AT THE HOTEL HESPERIA. BITSIOS
SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THIS CHANGE OF VENUE AND SAID
HE WOULD INFORM CARAMANLIS.
BITSIOS SAID HE HAD ALSO RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM
HELSINKI, BUT ONE THAT INDICATED THE LUNCHEON WOULD
BE AT 12:50 INSTEAD OF 12:45 TOMORROW, AND HE ASKED
ME IF THE TIME HAD BEEN CHANGED OR IF THERE WAS
ANY INFORMATION INDICATING A CHANGE IN THOSE WHO
WOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN THE LUNCHEON ON THE AMERICAN
SIDE. I TOLD HIM THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW THE LUNCHEON
WAS STILL SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 12:45 AND THAT ONLY
THE SECRETARY AND ARTHUR HARTMAN WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING
THE PRESIDENT. BITSIOS INDICATED HE WOULD APPRECIATE
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HARTMAN OR SOMEONE ELSE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE GETTING

IN TOUCH WITH HIM TOMORROW MORNING TO RECONFIRM ANY
LAST MINUTE DETAILS.

2. I ASKED BITSIOS IF THERE WAS ANYTHING SPECIAL THAT
CARAMANLIS EXPECTED TO RAISE AT THE LUNCHEON TOMORROW.
HE SAID NO, THAT CARAMANLIS WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO
HAVING A GENERAL OVERALL DISCUSSION WITH THE
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. HE DID SAY THAT
CARAMANLIS REMAINED WITH THE "IDEE FIXEE" IN HIS
MIND THAT THE KEY TO ALMOST EVERYTHING IMPORTANT
TO GREECE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE HANDS
OF TURKEY, AND THAT THIS KEY WAS THE TERRITORIAL
PERCENTAGE ARRANGEMENT ON CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO
BITSIOS, CARAMANLIS CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IF
THE TURKS WERE REASONABLE ON THE PERCENTAGE OF
TERRITORY IN THE TURKISH ZONE ON CYPRUS ALL OTHER
QUESTIONS AT ISSUE ON THE ISLAND COULD BE READILY
RESOLVED. THUS, IN CARAMANLIS' LINE OF REASONING,
THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO VASTLY IMPROVED GREEK-TURKEY
RELATIONS WOULD BE REMOVED. ALSO, THE U.S. CONGRESS
WOULD VOTE RESUMED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND
U.S.-TURKEY RELATIONS WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE SATISFACTORY,
AND U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS WOULD ALSO RETURN TO NORMAL.
THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD THEN ALLOW THE RAPID REPAIR OF
NATO'S SOUTHEASTERN FLANK, WITH ALL THE IMPLICATIONS
THIS HAS FOR THE ENTIRE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN, AND IT
WOULD ALSO ALLOW CARAMANLIS AND HIS GOVERNMENT TO DEVOTE
THEIR FULL ENERGIES TO GREECE'S DOMESTIC, ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, WHICH ARE SUSCEPTIBLE OF SOLUTION
IF THE GOVERNMENT ONLY HAD THE TIME AND THE
WHEREWITHAL TO DEAL WITH THEM.

3. BITSIOS INDICATED THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD WANT TO
EXPLORE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HOW
TURKEY COULD BE INFLUENCED AND PERSUADED TO EMPLOY
THIS "KEY" WHICH WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO THE SOLUTION OF A
WHOLE HOST OF PROBLEMS PLAGUING ALL OUR COUNTRIES.
I TOLD BITSIOS THAT, AS HE KNEW, THE USG HAD BEEN
SEVERELY HANDICAPPED IN ITS ABILITY TO PLAY A USEFUL
AND HELPFUL ROLE WITH THE TURKS AS A RESULT OF THE
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EMBARGO ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. BITSIOS
SAID THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS KNEW WE FELT THIS WAY
BUT SINCE OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVES WERE IN HARMONY THE
THING THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD WANT TO TALK TO THE
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ABOUT WAS THE BEST TACTICS
TO ACHIEVE THEM. HE REITERATED, AS HE HAD DONE LAST
WEEK AND NOTWITHSTANDING MY STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO
THE CONTRARY, THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS FELT THAT THE

GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD BEHAVED ENTIRELY PROPERLY IN THE WHOLE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION BY OUR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TURKISH MILITARY AID QUESTION.

4. I ASKED BITSIOS IF A MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL AND HE SAID AS OF LAST NIGHT THEY DID NOT HAVE DEFINITE WORD WHETHER OR NOT DEMIREL WOULD GO TO HELSINKI. THEREFORE, NO SPECIAL MEETING BY CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL HAD BEEN ARRANGED. HE WOULD EXPECT, HOWEVER, TO HAVE ONE OR MORE MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, AND HE SAID THAT CARAMANLIS WAS MORE THAN READY TO MEET WITH DEMIREL BUT BELIEVED THE INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM THE TURKISH SIDE BECAUSE DEMIREL STILL OWED HIM SOME RESPONSE ON QUESTIONS THEY HAD TAKEN UP IN BRUSSELS SIXTY DAYS AGO.

5. ON THE CYPRUS TALKS TO BE RESUMED IN VIENNA JULY 31, BITSIOS SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME VAGUE INDICATIONS THAT DENKTASH WOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK ON BOTH "CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES" AND "TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS", AND THIS COULD-AIF TRUE--BE A HOPEFUL SIGN. BITSIOS SAID THAT CLERIDES WAS PROCEEDING TO VIENNA ON SCHEDULE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS. EVEN SO, BITSIOS SAID HE WAS NOT TERRIBLY OPTIMISTIC THAT MUCH WOULD COME OUT OF THIS NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IN VIENNA, AND HE AND CARAMANLIS WERE COUNTING HEAVILY ON THEIR TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
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